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Message Text

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42
ACTION EUR-25

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1735
INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
USMISSION BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
AMEMBASSY LONDON
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USIA FOR IOP/M

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, UR, US
SUBJ: SOVIET PRESS ON WASHINGTON DEVELOPMENTS

1. SOVIET PRESS CONTINUES TO GIVE HEAVIER THAN USUAL COVERAGE TO WASHINGTON DEVELOPMENTS, ESPECIALLY AS THEY AFFECT U.S.-SOVIET RELATIONS. IZVESTIYA AUGUST 16 AND PRAVDA AUGUST 17 CARRY TASS REPORT HEADED "DEFEAT FOR THE OPPONENTS OF DETENTE," WHICH DESCRIVE WITH PLEASURE DEFEAT OF BLACKBURN AMENDMENT TO EXPORT CONTROL LAW. AMENDMENT IS DESCRIBED AS ATTENPT BY GROUP OF REACTIONARY CONGRESS-
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MEN TO IMPOSE FURTHER LIMITATIONS ON U.S.-SOVIET TRADE.

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TASS NOTES WITH APPROVAL ARGUMENT BY SEVERAL CONGRESSMEN THAT AMENDMENT CONFLICTS WITH INTENTION OF PRESIDENT FORD TO CONTINUE NIXON FOREIGN POLICY.

2. PRAVDA ALSO FRONTPAGES TASS STORY ON SFRC HEARINGS ON U.S-.SOVET RELATIONS WHICH QUOTES PRO-DETENTE STATEMENTS BY FULBRIGHT AND HARRIMAN, WITH LATTER EMPAHSIZING IMPORTANCE OF SUMMIT MEETINGS. FOLLOWING IS SHORT TASS ITEM REPORTING PRESIDENT'S HEETING WITH SENATORS JACKSON, RIBICOFF, AND JAVITS ON TRADE BILL. JACKSON IS QUOTED AS AFTEREARDS SIMPLY EXPRESSING HOPE THAT BILL WILL BE PASSED BEFORE END OF CONGRESSIONAL SESSION.

3. RED STAR AUGUST 17 PRINTS ARTICLE BY B. SVETLOV ENTITLED "FOR A REALISTIC APPROACH TO SOVIET-AMERICAN RELATIONS" WHICH REVIEWS SUBJECT IN FAMILIAR, POSITIVE TERMS AND INCLUDES STRONG PLUG FOR DIRECT, REGULAR, STABLE CONTACTS BETWEEN CONGRESS AND SUPREME SOVIET. NECESSITY OF SUCH CONTACTS IS DICTATED BY LIFE ITSELF, SVETLOV ARGUES, SINCE THEY AID PROCESS OF OVERCOMING COLD WAR INERTIA. ARTICLE'S ONLY DARK NOTE IS REFERENCE TO "THOSE" (UNSPECIFIED) TRYING TO LINK ARTIFICIALLY INTERNAL POLITICAL QUESTIONS IN U.S. WITH FOREIGN POLICY.

4. AUGUST 16 NEW TIMES CARRIES TWO-PAGE ARTICLE BY I. ANDRONOV ON CHANGE OF PRESIDENTS. AIDRONOV PROVIDES MORE DETAIL THAN USUAL IN DESCRIBING WATERGATE BREAK-IN AND CHARGES AGAINST NIXON BUT NEVERTHELESS CONCLUDES THAT WATERGATE AFFIAR WAS SIMPLY A BATTLE BETWEEN THE TWO PARTIES, WITH DEMOCRATS USING INCIDENT TO ATTACK NIXON IN CONGRESS, COURTS, AND PRESS. ALTHOUGH NIXON'S STRENGTH LAY IN HIS POLICY TOWARD USSR, HIS WEAKNESS LAY IN DEMOCRATS, CONTROL OF CONGRESS AND LEADING ORGANS OF MASS INFORMATION. SINCE NIXON WAS ALREADY BEING BLAMED FOR ENERGY CRISIS, INEMPLOYMENT, AND CATASTROPHIC INFLATION, ANDRONOV REASONS, WATERGATE AMOUNTED SIMPLY TO STRAW THAT BROKE CAMEL'S BACK AND ENDED HIS CAREER.

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5. IN DISCUSSING FORD, ARTICLE INDICATES THAT HE WILL BE FORCED TO CHOOSE BETWEEN INTERESTS OF WORKERS AND BUSINESSMEN IN DEALING WITH COUNTRY'S ECONOMIC PROBLEMS, WITH HIS PAST RECORD POINTING TOWARD PRO-BUSINESS STANCE. ANDRONOV NOTES, HOWEVER, THAT FORD IS PRAGMATIST WHO, LIKE NIXON, ABANDONED HARD ANTI-COMMUNISM WHEN HE BECAME CONVINCED OF ITS FRUITLESSNESS. PRESIDENT IS DESCRIBED AS CALM, CONFIDENT, STRONG PERSON WITH OPEN

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FACE AND ABILITY TO WIN PEOPLE OVER. ALTHOUGH AMERICAN PRESS CHARACTERIZES PRESIDENT AS "AVERAGE AMERICAN", IT IS NECESSARY TO ADD, ANDRONOV NOTES, THAT HE IS DISTINGUISHED FROM AVERAGE CITIZEN BY QUARTER-MILLION-DOLLAR WORTH.
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